

(SABLAN LINKS SEVEN BILLS)

SEM 1976

SAIPAN, SEPT. 20 (MNS) ACTING TRUST TERRITORY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER JUAN A. SABLAN HAS SIGNED INTO LAW SEVEN MORE BILLS PASSED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DURING ITS RECENT SPECIAL SESSION IN KOLOHIA, PONAPE DISTRICT. ACTION ON THE BILLS CAME ON WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 15).

ONE OF THE BILLS SIGNED WAS AN ACT TO DESIGNATE PONAPE DISTRICT AS THE SITE OF THE PERMANENT CAPITAL OF MICRONESIA, (SB 6-277). THE BILL PROVIDES THAT FUNDS BE AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE CONGRESS GENERAL FUND "SUCH SUMS AS MAY BE NECESSARY" TO PERFORM THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES, MASTER PLANS, COST ESTIMATES AND RELATED WORK NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PERMANENT CAPITAL OF MICRONESIA.

THE BILL IS ALSO ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL DURING THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAST YEAR AND ALSO THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THIS YEAR. PALAU DELEGATION, LED BY REP. KUNIWO NAKAMURA SUCCEEDED DURING THE REGULAR SESSION TO AMEND THE BILL SO PALAU DISTRICT COULD BE EXCLUDED FROM CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE SITES FOR MICRONESIA'S CAPITAL.

AGAIN DURING LAST MONTH'S SPECIAL SESSION IN PONAPE DISTRICT, THE PALAU DELEGATION WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE CHAMBER DURING FINAL VOTING ON THE BILL. THEY MAINTAINED THAT SINCE PALAU IS OPTING FOR A SEPARATE POLITICAL STATUS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE VOTING.

THE BILL NOW BECOMES PUBLIC LAW 6-133.

A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$300,000 FOR STUDENT LOAN FUND AND TO ESTABLISH BASIS FOR CANCELLATION OF LOANS (SB 6-367) BECOMES PUBLIC LAW 6-134. THE BILL ORIGINALLY ASKED FOR \$600,000 BUT DUE TO SHORTAGE OF FUNDS, THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE HEADED BY SENATOR BAILEY OLTER CUT IT DOWN TO \$300,000. THE BILL DOES NOT ACTUALLY PROVIDE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, BUT RATHER PROVIDES FOR STUDENT LOANS.

OTHER BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A BILL TO LINK PONAPE AND TRUK WITH YAP IN AN AIR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PROVIDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION, AIR/SEA SEARCH AND PASSENGER SERVICES TO AND FROM OUTER ISLANDS, (SB 6-391) NOW PL 6-135;

TO HAVE THE MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT BANK ACQUIRE THE LIABILITIES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND AS WELL AS THE ASSETS, (SB 6-397) NOW PL 6-397;

TO AMEND THE TRUST TERRITORY SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO CORRECT CERTAIN DEFICIENCIES AND INCONSISTENCIES IN PUBLIC LAWS 6-89 AND 6-91 ENACTED IN THE LAST REGULAR SESSION OF THE CONGRESS, (SB 6-398). BOTH LAWS AMENDED THE SAME SECTIONS OF TITLE 73 OF THE TT CODE, RESULTING IN CONTRADICTORY PROVISIONS. THE BILL IS NOW PUBLIC LAW 6-136;

TO DIRECT AND AUTHORIZE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ENTER INTO A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH A FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC COMPANY FOR THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A PILOT PLANT IN MICRONESIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF UTILIZING LATERITIC AND OTHER SOIL DEPOSITS, (SB 6-140) NOW PL 6-132; AND

A BILL TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 5-105 WHICH APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS IN PONAPE DISTRICT IN ORDER THAT CERTAIN FUNDS EARMARKED FOR OFFICE REPAIRS CAN BE USED TO PURCHASE A VEHICLE FOR THE PONAPE DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, (SB 6-143) NOW PL 138.

WITH THE SIGNING OF THESE BILLS, ONE MORE MEASURE IS STILL AWAITING ACTION FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

(CORAL CUTTING OUTLAWED)

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 20 (MNS)---THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HAS ANNOUNCED STRICT REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE MINING OF CORAL ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF, INCLUDING GUAM, HAWAII, AMERICAN SAMOA AND THE U.S. CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES.

THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC WILL NOT BE COVERED. BUT THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR CAN TAKE WHATEVER ACTION HE DEEMS NECESSARY TO PROTECT MICRONESIA'S CORAL, ACCORDING TO THE NEW REGULATIONS.

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, NO CORAL CAN BE TAKEN FROM A "VIABLE CORAL COMMUNITY" WITHOUT A PERMIT FROM THE INTERIOR'S BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT. ACCORDING TO THE BUREAU A "VIABLE CORAL COMMUNITY" IS "LIVING CORAL AND ALL DEAD CORAL FORMATIONS

AND ASSOCIATED LIFE THAT ARE PART OF A CORAL REEF OR OTHER ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY CONTAINING LIVING CORAL."

THE NEW REGULATIONS SUPERSEDE AN ORDER ISSUED SEPTEMBER 10, 1975 WHICH STOPPED ALL LEGAL CUTTING, GATHERING AND STOCKPILING OF CORAL FOR JEWELRY AND OTHER DECORATIVE USES AND CONTROLLED OTHER COMMERCIAL USES.

UNDER THE PERMIT SYSTEM PERSONS WILL BE ALLOWED TO HARVEST OR CUT CORAL WHERE THE MATERIAL WILL BE USED FOR SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES AND WHERE COMMERCIAL USES ARE JUSTIFIED.

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO SET A FEE FOR HARVESTING PRIVILEGES. IT WILL BE AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT OF THE FAIR-MARKET VALUE.

(NEW CHIEF OF ETTAL)

TRUK, SEPT. 20 (MNS)---RESULT OF A MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR THE POSITION OF CHIEF MAGISTRATE ON ETTAL ISLAND IN THE MORTLOCKS AREA, LOCATED 188 MILES SOUTHEAST OF MOEN (TRUK DISTRICT CENTER), SHOWED THAT WRITE-IN CANDIDATE ISIRO CHORAM WON THE POSITION OF CHIEF MAGISTRATE BY A CONVINCING MAJORITY VOTE.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF TRUK DISTRICT THAT A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE HAS EVER WON SUCH A POSITION BY WRITE-IN VOTES, ACCORDING TO TRUK DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISKIA SONNY.

CHORAM DEFEATED INCUMBENT CHIEF MAGISTRATE KAINER KUSTO AND A YOUNG CHALLENGER TOKOICHY CHUNIONG IN THAT ELECTION HELD ON ETTAL ISLAND AUGUST 16.

ALTHOUGH CHALLENGER CHUNIONG WHO FINISHED SECOND DEFEATED THE INCUMBENT CHIEF MAGISTRATE, BOTH OF THEM WERE SUPRISINGLY DEFEATED BY WRITE-IN CANDIDATE CHORAM, WHO IS THE PRINCIPAL OF ETTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

IN THAT ELECTION, INCUMBENT KUSTO RECEIVED TWENTY-FOUR VOTES, CHUNIONG THIRTY-TWO, AND CHORAM SEVENTY-NINE VOTES.

TRUK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR MITARO DANIS CERTIFIES THE ELECTION RESULT MONDAY, SEPT. 13.

CHORAM'S TERM OF OFFICE WILL EXPIRE ON AUG. 16, 1978.